



Report Presented To:	Township of Southgate Council Meeting
Meeting Date:	2024-10-02
Report Number	CAO2024-016
Title:	Volunteer and Community Member Recognition
Open/Closed Session:	Open Session
Prepared By:	Dina Lundy Chief Administrative Officer
Approved By:	Dina Lundy Chief Administrative Officer

Executive Summary:

This report is presented to establish a yearly appreciation event for individuals that dedicate their time, expertise, and/or resources to the community.

Recommendation:

Be it resolved that Staff report CAO2024-016 be received for information; and
That Council approve an annual Volunteer and Community Member Appreciation event; and
That the 2024 event be held at a cost not to exceed \$800 funded from the 2024 administration operating budget.

Background:

The township has not hosted a dedicated celebration for individuals that serve the community on various committees and through volunteering. The Township’s Community Strategic Plan identified an opportunity to highlight the hard work of these individuals through developing an annual appreciation event. Similar events are held at neighbouring and other municipalities across the province.

Analysis

The purpose for the proposed annual event is to emphasize the vital role that dedicated individuals play in our community. Their selfless service not only enhances the well-being of those around them but also inspires others to contribute, fostering a spirit of unity and cooperation.

Recognizing these individuals is essential. It not only honours their hard work but also encourages a culture of giving back. When we celebrate their achievements, we remind everyone that every effort counts, no matter how small. The township would be making this an

annual event to continue to uplift and appreciate those who dedicate their time and energy to making our community a better place.

While the full details of the event have not been determined, staff are open to ideas that will assist in making this event truly memorable. Currently, staff are suggesting that the celebration include greetings from the mayor, a light lunch, and potential award ceremony.

Financial and Resource Implications:

The administration budget includes an "Admin – Other" account with a budget totalling \$10,000 for 2024. Typically, this line item is used for miscellaneous items, but also includes the budget for the staff Christmas party. The cost for this volunteer celebration will be absorbed within the current budget for 2024 and will be budgeted accordingly each year.

Strategic Priorities:

Priority: Happy, Healthy Communities

Goal: Goal 9: Foster Positive Relationships Between Newcomers to the Community and Existing Residents

Action Item: 9 b). Collaborate with Community Groups to Champion and Host an Annual Welcome Mixer and Volunteer Celebration Event to Help Foster Community Relationships

Attachments: None